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RETAIL PRICES, MARCH QUARTER 1970

Introduction

The Consumer Price Index measures quarterly, for each State Capital, the variations in prices of commodities and services which affect a high proportion of the expenditure of wage-earner households. Commodities and services included in the index are food, clothing, drapery, home ownership, rent of houses and flats, fuel, light, furniture, household appliances and supplies, fares, motoring, tobacco, cigarettes, beer, cinema, radio and television licences, newspapers, postal and telephone services, hairdressing, dry cleaning, medical and health services, and various other items.

The various commodities and services have been combined into groups, and group indexes are available for Food, Clothing and Drapery, Housing, Household Supplies and Equipment, and Miscellaneous.

The indexes measure price movements in each city individually. They do not provide a comparison of the retail price level in any city with the retail price level of any other city. The base of the index for each city and for the weighted average, six State Capitals, is year 1966-67 = 100.0.

March Quarter 1970

There was an increase of 0.9 per cent in the Brisbane Consumer Price Index from December quarter 1969 to March quarter 1970, the index number for All Groups rising from 107.9 to 108.9. For the twelve months ended March 1970 the All Groups increase was 2.9 per cent.

From December quarter 1969 to March quarter 1970 the Consumer Price Index increased in all State Capitals. Percentage increases were as follows: Sydney, 1.6; Perth, 1.1; Adelaide, 1.0; Brisbane, 0.9; Hobart, 0.7; and Melbourne, 0.6.

Since the base year, 1966-67, the rise in the retail price level has been greatest in Sydney and smallest in Adelaide. Percentage increases from 1966-67 to March quarter 1970 were as follows: Sydney, 11.3; Perth, 9.9; Melbourne, Brisbane, and Hobart, 8.9; and Adelaide, 8.4. The rise in the weighted average for the six State Capitals was 9.8 per cent. (It should be noted that these figures merely indicate rates of price rises in separate cities and do not represent in any way the relativities of actual price levels in the different cities.)

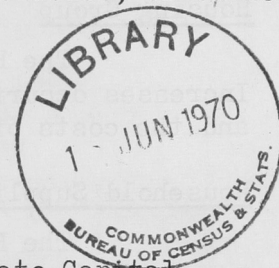
A brief outline of the movements of the various group indexes for Brisbane between December quarter 1969 and March quarter 1970 is given below.

Food Group

The Food Group index increased from 106.9 to 108.6, a rise during the quarter of 1.6 per cent. The main price increases recorded were for beef, bread, ice-cream, and chocolate confectionery.

Clothing and Drapery Group

Increases in the prices of men's clothing were chiefly responsible for the rise of 0.7 per cent in the Clothing and Drapery Group, the index increasing from 107.0 to 107.7.



Housing Group

The Housing Group index increased by 0.5 per cent, from 113.0 to 113.6. Increases occurred in rents of privately-owned houses and flats, house prices, and the costs of repairs and maintenance.

Household Supplies and Equipment Group

The Household Supplies and Equipment Group index increased by 0.3 per cent, from 105.2 to 105.5, because of minor price changes of items in the group.

Miscellaneous Group

The Miscellaneous Group index rose from 108.5 to 109.5, an increase of 0.9 per cent. The rise was chiefly attributable to increases in the costs of dental services, motor car repairs, and the prices of motor cars.

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Table 1 - Consumer Price Index: Total and Group Indexes, Brisbane
(Year 1966-67 = 100.0)

Period	Food	Clothing and Drapery	Housing	Household Supplies and Equipment	Miscell- aneous	All Groups
<u>Year</u>						
1959-60 ..	80.9	90.5	81.5	95.0	80.6	84.2
1960-61 ..	84.9	93.1	84.6	95.5	83.1	87.1
1961-62 ..	85.2	94.4	86.3	97.0	85.6	88.4
1962-63 ..	84.6	94.6	88.5	96.9	86.3	88.7
1963-64 ..	86.7	95.3	89.2	95.9	86.8	89.6
1964-65 ..	92.2	96.6	91.5	96.8	90.4	93.0
1965-66 ..	98.4	97.8	97.3	98.8	95.5	97.5
1966-67 ..	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1967-68 ..	103.7	102.4	105.8	101.2	103.2	103.3
1968-69 ..	104.7	104.3	109.6	104.3	106.0	105.5
<u>Quarter</u>						
1969: March ..	105.1	104.4	110.0	104.7	106.3	105.8
June ..	105.5	105.2	110.7	104.8	106.6	106.3
September	106.2	105.8	112.7	105.2	107.9	107.2
December	106.9	107.0	113.0	105.2	108.5	107.9
1970: March ..	108.6	107.7	113.6	105.5	109.5	108.9
Percentage Increase on Previous Quarter						
<u>Quarter</u>						
1969: March ..	1.0	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.2	0.5
June ..	0.4	0.8	0.6	0.1	0.3	0.5
September	0.7	0.6	1.8	0.4	1.2	0.8
December	0.7	1.1	0.3	-	0.6	0.7
1970: March ..	1.6	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.9	0.9

Table 2 - Consumer Price Index: State Capital Cities
(Year 1966-67 = 100.0 for Each City and for Six State Capitals)

As the base for each city is 100.0, the indexes in the table below do not indicate relative price levels as between cities, but they may be used to compare relative price movements in the various cities.

Period	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Weighted Average, Six State Capitals
<u>Year</u>							
1959-60 ..	86.5	85.3	84.2	86.2	84.8	85.6	85.7
1960-61 ..	89.6	89.5	87.1	89.8	87.9	90.3	89.2
1961-62 ..	89.9	89.8	88.4	89.5	88.2	90.7	89.6
1962-63 ..	90.4	89.7	88.7	89.1	88.7	90.7	89.8
1963-64 ..	91.4	90.4	89.6	90.2	89.8	91.7	90.6
1964-65 ..	94.5	94.0	93.0	93.9	92.6	94.6	94.0
1965-66 ..	97.7	97.5	97.5	97.0	96.1	98.0	97.4
1966-67 ..	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1967-68 ..	103.2	103.7	103.3	102.9	102.9	104.6	103.3
1968-69 ..	106.2	106.2	105.5	105.3	105.5	106.1	106.0
<u>Quarter</u>							
1969: March ..	106.7	106.6	105.8	105.5	105.6	106.5	106.4
June ..	107.6	107.2	106.3	106.4	107.0	107.0	107.2
September	108.4	107.6	107.2	106.9	107.7	107.4	107.8
December	109.6	108.3	107.9	107.3	108.7	108.1	108.7
1970: March ..	111.3	108.9	108.9	108.4	109.9	108.9	109.8

Table 3 - Average Retail Prices: Food, Brisbane

Item	Unit	Year	Month		
		1969	Jan. 1970	Feb. 1970	March 1970
		Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
<u>Cereal Products</u>					
Bread, white (delivered)					
Unwrapped ..	2 lb loaf	19.0	19.0	19.0	19.0
Wrapped and sliced ..	2 lb loaf	23.1	24.0	24.0	24.0
Flour, plain ..	2 lb pkt	15.4	15.2	15.8	16.0
Flour, self-raising ..	2 lb pkt	18.4	18.4	18.8	18.8
Biscuits, wheatmeal ..	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb pkt	17.7	18.3	18.3	18.1
Biscuits, milk arrowroot ..	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb pkt	18.3	18.6	18.6	17.8
Biscuits, dry ..	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb pkt	18.9	19.1	19.1	17.8
Oats, rolled ..	2 lb pkt	41.7	43.0	43.0	43.0
Rice ..	1 lb pkt	14.5	15.0	15.0	15.0
<u>Dairy Produce</u>					
Milk, fresh (bottled, delivered) ..	1 quart	19.2	20.0	20.0	20.0
Milk, powdered ..	12 oz tin	39.9	41.3	41.3	39.8
Cheese, cheddar, matured ..	8 oz pkt	32.7	32.9	32.9	32.3
Cheese, cheddar, processed ..	8 oz pkt	25.3	25.5	25.2	24.7
Butter ..	1 lb	53.1	53.7	53.6	54.0
Eggs (24 oz in carton) ..	dozen	63.7	61.7	61.7	61.7

Table 3 - Average Retail Prices: Food, Brisbane (continued)

Item	Unit	Year	Month		
		1969	Jan. 1970	Feb. 1970	March 1970
<u>Fruit and Vegetables</u>		Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
Peaches, canned	29 oz tin	32.0	32.8	34.0	34.3
Pears, canned	29 oz tin	32.1	32.8	34.0	34.4
Sultanas	1 lb pkt	37.0	37.8	38.3	37.6
Peas, green, canned	15½ oz tin	20.5	20.5	19.4	20.6
Peas, frozen	10 oz pkt	26.3	26.6	27.0	26.6
Potatoes	7 lb	35.3	34.0	36.3	32.3
Onions	1 lb	8.8	13.9	11.2	9.9
<u>Beverages</u>					
Tea	½ lb pkt	29.8	29.3	29.0	29.3
Coffee, instant	2 oz jar	44.4	44.2	44.9	44.7
Cocoa	8 oz pkt	34.3	36.1	37.1	37.1
<u>Other Food (excluding meat)</u>					
Sugar	4 lb pkt	42.2	42.7	42.7	42.9
Jam, plum	1½ lb tin	26.4	27.6	28.1	28.1
Jam, apricot	1½ lb tin	32.6	33.4	34.0	35.0
Jam, marmalade	1½ lb tin	28.6	29.2	29.4	29.3
Honey, liquid	16 oz jar	27.1	27.6	27.8	28.0
Peanut paste	12 oz jar	42.9	45.4	45.4	44.5
Beans, baked, canned	16 oz tin	16.6	17.7	17.6	17.3
Spaghetti, canned	16 oz tin	16.6	17.7	17.6	17.1
Margarine, table	1 lb	39.8	39.9	39.9	39.9
Sauce, tomato	10 oz bottle	22.6	23.1	22.7	22.7
Pickles, mustard	10 oz jar	24.2	23.5	23.5	23.5
Sardines, Norwegian	3¾ oz tin	16.8	16.7	16.7	16.9
Salmon, Australian, canned	16 oz tin	43.2	44.0	44.0	44.0
Soup, tomato	16 oz tin	18.0	17.9	17.9	18.3
			Quarter Ended March 1970		
<u>Meat</u>					
Beef, rib, roast (without bone)	1 lb	53.9		55.2	
" , steak, rump	1 lb	81.2		85.3	
" , steak, chuck	1 lb	50.3		52.4	
" , steak, blade	1 lb	60.7		63.0	
" , sausages	1 lb	27.5		29.2	
" , silverside, corned	1 lb	57.0		58.6	
" , brisket, corned	1 lb	42.4		43.3	
Mutton, leg	1 lb	34.2		34.9	
" , chops, loin	1 lb	32.1		33.9	
" , chops, leg	1 lb	33.7		34.2	
Lamb, leg	1 lb	49.9		51.0	
" , chops, loin	1 lb	51.9		53.5	
" , chops, leg	1 lb	52.0		53.1	
Pork, leg	1 lb	60.2		61.4	
" , loin	1 lb	59.1		60.3	
" , chops	1 lb	59.3		61.0	
Bacon, rashers, pre-packed	½ lb	49.5		49.7	